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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method of managing switch connections at a switching node in a communications system, the method comprising:

providing connection requests from a higher level application to a connection manager in said switching node;

processing said requests in said connection manager and generating a connection table therefrom based on switch hardware related information stored within switch hardware; and

based on said connection table, routing said commands from said connection manager to switch card elements in said switching nodes to carry out said requests; and

if the switch hardware changes, dynamically changing the connection table.

Claims 2-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (original)   The method according to claim 1 wherein said switch card elements support multiple configuration tables.

Claims 9-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (new)   A method of managing switch connections at a switching node in a communications system, the method comprising:

providing connection requests from a higher level application to a connection manager in said switching node;

processing said requests in said connection manager and generating a connection table therefrom; and

based on said connection table, routing commands from said connection manager to switch card elements in said switching nodes to carry out said requests, said switch card elements supporting multiple configurations.

Claim 14 (new)   The method of claim 13 further comprising generating additional versions of said connection table so as to allow simultaneous changes to multiple

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connections by routing commands from said connection manager to switch card elements based on one of the additional versions of said connection table.

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